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HISTORY  
OF  
CHESTERVILLE,  
MAINE.

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BY THE LATE OLIVER SEWALL, Esq.

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FARMINGTON, ME.

PUBLISHED BY J. S. SWIFT.

1875.



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## P R E F A C E.

A FARMINGTON paper dated June 8, 1861, contains the following paragraph:—"In the death of Oliver Sewall, Esq., recorded in our last, the community meets with a twofold loss. Through a long life Mr. Sewall was an industrious, liberal, public spirited and exemplary citizen; and, more than this, he was a sincere Christian, and while cheerful and active in all the social and political relations of life, he never forgot the higher interests and responsibilities associated with the life which is to come. The Congregational Church, of which he was a member, will miss his presence and his counsel. Mr. Sewall's observations and recollections embraced almost the whole period of the history of the settlement and progress of the region of territory embraced in our county, and he has left many valuable papers. A few years since he finished a detailed history of Chesterville, with a view to its publication. We feel that justice to the memory of a departed friend like Mr. Sewall requires a more extended biographical sketch than we are now prepared to give, and which we shall embrace a future opportunity to present."

The history referred to in the paragraph here quoted is the work now for the first time presented to the public. And it is an invaluable legacy which its

author with indefatigable and exhaustive research, prepared—not for anticipated pecuniary remuneration—but for the gratification and instruction of succeeding generations, within the limits of the locations he loved as the region of his birth, of his childhood's recollections, and as the scene of the useful labors of a long life. The manuscript has been followed almost exactly, leaving the original work as an enduring monument of the ability and taste of the author. The latest addition made by the author to the manuscript seems to have been made early in 1858; consequently the history lacks some eighteen years of coming down to the date of publication. This fact imposes upon the publisher the necessity of preparing an appendix to follow Mr. Sewall's history, and fill up the intervening time, and illustrate the original by reference to changes which time and progress have wrought.

Mr. Sewall kept a journal from his boyhood to within a few days of his death, in which he recorded the employments and observations of each day, and this, with the habit which the practice confirmed, enabled him to make the early History of Chesterville remarkably complete, and it is hoped that the appendix—the publication of which will follow as soon as practicable—will make the whole work a model town history.

The plan proposed for the Appendix to the History of Chesterville will make it somewhat more extensive than the original work.

It is proposed, among other things, to give a few additional papers by Mr. Sewall; somewhat extended biographical sketches of the author of the original history, Rev. Jotham Sewall, Father Foster, and some others who have been prominent citizens; and the genealogy, as far as it can be procured, of each family.

It is proposed likewise to give a brief description and sketch of the history of each farm—a feature never before attempted in a town history.

Among the subjects for distinct sections of the appendix for which more or less preparation has been made, may be enumerated the following ;—Geology of Chesterville—Botany of Chesterville—Agriculture of Chesterville—Manufactures of Chesterville—The Future of Chesterville—Orcharding in Chesterville—Water Power of Chesterville—Scenery of Chesterville, &c., &c.

PUBLISHER.

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# HISTORY OF CHESTERVILLE.

BY THE LATE OLIVER SEWALL, ESQ.

## 1. — INTRODUCTORY.

CHESTERVILLE was formerly a wilderness. Encroachments were made upon the primeval forest by a few individuals, who, with the intention of making permanent homes, began to make clearings and erect log cabins not far from 1780. At that time the territory afterwards constituting the town of Chesterville was a part of the "District of Maine," then a part of Massachusetts. Maine continued a "district" some forty years after the date referred to, when it was separated from the mother commonwealth and became a state.

The territory of Chesterville was first included in Lincoln County which at the time extended from the ocean, near the Kennebec River, northerly to the Canada line. Out of this long county the County of Kennebec was formed, about the close of the eighteenth century. Still later, at different times, the counties of Somerset, Franklin, Sagadahock, and parts of some others have been chiefly taken from what was formerly the County of Lincoln. Chesterville is now one of the southerly towns in the County of Franklin, whose seat

of justice is in Farmington, the shire town. Before the organization of Franklin County in 1838 Chester-ville was in the County of Kennebec.

## 2—NAME.

SEVERAL of the early settlers in the central part of the town were singers. They sometimes met in their camps to spend an evening in the practice of sacred music. On one of these occasions, (possibly when there were few if any families in the place,) they sung a tune named CHESTER, supposed to have been composed by Billings, and were much pleased with it.—After extolling the tune awhile their thoughts seemed to revert to their situation—only a few—almost alone in the forest. Dummer Sewall proposed to call the new settlement CHESTER, a proposition which was agreed to without dispute. From that time to the incorporation of the town that section bore the name of CHESTER PLANTATION, while the southerly part of the town was called WYMAN'S PLANTATION, no doubt in honor of the first inhabitant, Abraham Wyman. When the settlers petitioned for incorporation as a town one of their requests was that the new town should be named CHESTER; but as there was a town of that name in Massachusetts the legislature added VILLE, and the new town came up CHESTERVILLE.

## 3.—DESCRIPTION.

CHESTERVILLE was originally "State's Land," but unlike most other towns in the vicinity it was purchased

in sections by different companies and individuals, at various times. The town in length, from north to south is seven or eight miles, its width at the north end about six miles, and at the south end four or five miles, while it is scarcely three miles in width a little south of the middle. Chesterville is bounded on the south by Fayette, west by Jay, north-west by Wilton, north by Farmington, north-east by New Sharon, and east by Vienna. It has a water line dividing it in part from Farmington and Vienna and wholly from New Sharon, consisting of Wilson's Stream below the mouth of the Little Norridgewock; the Sandy River thence to the mouth of McGurdy's Stream; up that stream, through Whittier's Pond, some four miles or more,—about two hundred rods of Lane's Brook, a tributary of Parker's Pond, at its mouth and above, and through Parker's Pond thence to Fayette line. The best farming land lies in the extremities of the town, much near the centre being bogs, swamps, plains, or ponds.

#### 4. — PURCHASES.

“CHESTER First Purchase,” as it has been called, was conveyed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, about 1790, to Dummer Sewall, Esq., of Bath, and his associates, and contained 8000 acres or more. It was bounded easterly by a part of McGurdy's Stream and the northerly pond through which it runs to Sandy River, north by the south line of Farmington, to a corner on the west side of Beaver-Dam Brook, near the present dwelling house of the late Josiah Norcross;

west by a line thence to Locke's Pond, by that and Sand Pond to the south end of the latter, and a line south 30 deg. east to a hemlock tree about thirty rods west of Little Norridgewock Stream, and south by a line north 65 deg. east,—including the water power at what is now Parks' or Central Mills,—to McGurdy's Stream. It is said that Benjamin Whittier, Esq., then of Farmington, was one of the purchasers, and that on division he took his part on the eastern side of the purchase.

It is believed that the south part of the town was bought and lotted off with what is now Vienna, as far west as the Little Norridgewock Stream and Pond, to a point a little further north than Seth Norcross' dwelling house; as the bearings of the lines are very similar. North of this point it was bounded on the north-west by McGurdy's Brook, Pond and Stream.

Another purchase containing about 1500 acres was made by Samuel Linscott. It included the land north-west of McGurdy's Stream to Chester First Purchase; and was bounded west by Little Norridgewock Stream, and south by a line run due west from the outlet of McGurdy's Pond to the Little Norridgewock.

In the south-west corner of the town is the purchase of Clifford & Judkins, extending about a mile north from the Fayette line, and from the Little Norridgewock Stream and Pond to the Jay line.

Immediately north of this, and extending east to McGurdy's Brook, is a tract of 1000 acres which was granted to the town for public uses. The worth

of this tract was small, (as was found when sold,) for it contained a large portion of bog and pond.

North of this lay the purchase of Plumer & Eaton; but it extended east only to the Little Norridgewock Stream. This left some 100 acres between the grant to the town and Linscott's Purchase, extending east to McGurdy's Brook and Pond. This small tract was the last purchased from the State. It was made about 1820.

Bean's Purchase lay in the north-west corner of the town as incorporated. It extended south of the south-west cove of Sand Pond some 180 rods, thence west to the Jay line. It was bounded east by Chester First Purchase to the north of Sand Pond.

South of this pond, between the two coves which form its south end, and extending some 140 rods further south than Bean's Purchase, are two lots of about 130 acres each, one where Enoch Black now lives, bought by John Wheeler, senior, and the other by his son, Edward T. Wheeler.

The remainder, situated south and east of the three last mentioned tracts, bounded east by Chester First Purchase, and Linscott's, south by Palmer & Eaton's Purchase, and west by Jay line, containing about 1500 acres, was bought by John and William Chany, about 1812. Except the small tract before mentioned this was the latest purchase from the State.

Not many years after its incorporation the town was enlarged by the annexation of a few lots from Wilton, containing what is now J. W. Butterfield's farm and the land around it.

## 5.—NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

ONE of the natural curiosities of Chesterville is found on the east side of Blabon, formerly called McGurdy's Hill, and partially connected with it, called "Old Bluff." On the west side of the hill there is a ledge about 70 feet in height, a number of rods in length, and almost perpendicular. The south-east side, however, possesses the most value and excites the highest interest. Here lie beautiful sheets of granite, of almost any desirable thickness, rising some 200 feet, rather steep, yet falling back something like stairs, with occasionally a broad step of a wide sheet laying uncovered. At the base the mass of stones, of almost every conceivable shape excepting round, indicates that by frost or some other power granite sheets have lost their place in this mountain ledge, and have been accumulating for ages; having been broken by the fall or some convulsion into various shapes and sizes. Many pieces here bear a striking resemblance to sheets far up the hillside. As they lay in place these sheets are generally thicker below than above. Years ago a stone, somewhat spherical, of some two tons weight, lay perched just above this ledge. In 1815 two men undermined one side and rolled it down stairs. It went down at a rate not slow, and as the men followed down its track, they saw where it leaped from one step to another, frequently breaking out fragments. They heard it too, away below them, jumping its way down to a

place of repose. Near the base they found a flat stone, some eight or ten inches in thickness, and in size about ten by fifteen feet, so nearly balanced on the points of three stones beneath, that half the weight of a man settled one end about six inches, and when the weight was removed, it resumed its former position with a loud and singular noise, probably occasioned by the many cavities it partially covered.

On another spur of the same hill, some half mile north of this, is situated a fine ledge of granite, from which many valuable stones are quarried. It is called "Crowell's Ledge." Still another, called "Lakin's Ledge," on the north-west front of the hill, affords many good stones. Granite also crops out on other parts of the same hill. The part called "Old Bluff" is thought by some to exceed any other hill in town in altitude.

Another natural feature of the town, somewhat remarkable, is called "The Bluff." It is situated some thirty or forty rods north-west of Sand Pond, and is a ledge of rock almost perpendicular, facing the pond, very nearly 100 feet high. At its base are rocks and stones of various shapes and sizes, in apparent confusion for several feet in front of the ledge. Above the land mounts still higher a few rods and then falls off to the north-west. The higher part of the bluff is about thirty rods in length. Years ago, when pine timber was much more plenty than at present, there stood above and a little back of the "Jumping off Place," and leaning somewhat towards it, a pine tree, some two and a half feet in diameter, with a

well proportioned body. It looked so inviting that some youngsters wishing to see a "pitchpole," cut it down. And down it went, as if hurried into the abyss below, almost top foremost. The top was not only broken off, but broken and split into pieces,—some of which were "almost as fine as ovenwood." Some forty feet of the but, however, stood the shock very well, but ended over and came to rest among the trees and rocks, with its top towards the stump.

#### 7.—THE RIDGE.

What is esteemed as at the head of nature's various works in Chesterville is "The Ridge." It is what its name imports, a narrow ridge of land, to appearance composed of small stones, sand and gravel, some four miles long. The sides are generally steep—sometimes double or wide, and varying from six or seven to seventy or eighty feet in height. It commences about three-fourths of a mile south of the Centre Mills, and extends in a south-westerly direction, somewhat crooked, and of unequal height and width, some forty rods into Fayette. For the most of this distance it appears to divide the waters of the Little Norridgewock and McGurdy's Streams. A brook, however, running from the south-east, through Perkins' Meadow in Fayette, comes to the Ridge on the east, several rods north of its southern extremity, receives a few tributaries from the north-east, and runs around the south end of the Ridge into Lane's Pond, near its outlet. This outlet is the main branch of



the Little Norridgewock Stream, which passes through Norridgewock or Moose Horn Pond, receives the Bog Stream from the west, and a few smaller streams, and joins Wilson's Stream, (which is rapid,) some mile or more above its mouth, which is at Farmington Falls. Besides the last pond above mentioned, two others, Round Pond and Sheldrake Pond, lie on the west side of the Ridge, all very near it. It is generally thought that Sheldrake Pond leaks out—slowly no doubt—under the Ridge in two places, into McGurdy's Pond on the east side, and somewhat lower. The evidences of these outlets under the Ridge, are, first, two hollows or depressions in the Ridge near Sheldrake Pond; second, not far from the northerly of the two hollows, water appears to come up in a bog, almost on a level with McGurdy's Pond, which is so warm that it never freezes; thirdly, the writer saw, April 23, 1829, east of the southern hollow, a strip of open water, clear from ice, extending quite across McGurdy's Pond, towards the outlet, and very straight, while the ice north and south of it remained undissolved. This is probably so every year, as others have frequently noticed such an appearance at that season of the year. It seems not only probable but almost certain that such a road through the ice was made by a current of warm water. The hollows in the ridge may owe their origin to some other cause, or they may have been the effect of a leak underneath. These leaks must be small or they would draw off Sheldrake Pond to a level with the other. The former, however, may be

fed by springs sufficiently large to hold the balance. It would seem that these outlets descend very deep to send up warm water. Sheldrake Pond has no other outlet excepting over a bog towards the north-west, in time of freshet. At such times the water backs in from the Little Norridgewock, and only runs off as the flood subsides.

#### 8. — STREAMS.

McGurdy's Stream rises on the east side of the Ridge, in Chesterville, not a great distance from the south line, and passes through McGurdy's and Whittier's Ponds, receiving several brooks on both sides, and loses itself in the Sandy River, about a mile below Farmington Falls.

Wilson's Stream, a rapid stream, rising in No. 4, and Temple, and running through Wilton, runs only a mile or two on the boundary of Chesterville.

Little Norridgewock and McGurdy's Streams have little descent and afford but few mill sites. They are fed, partially at least, by swamps. Their shores in many places are skirted with meadow lands, which afford a cheap coarse hay, of no inconsiderable benefit to the farmers. Some of these were natural meadows. Tradition says that some men residing in Winthrop formerly cut and stacked hay near McGurdy's Stream, drove up cattle to consume it in a sheltered place in the woods near by, and then drove them home again.

One small meadow on McGurdy's Stream is called

“The Horse Meadow.” In connection with this name, as the circumstance in which it originated,—the following story is told. Mr. Linscott, the owner, had cut and stacked the hay as usual, one season. Late in the fall some one in Farmington lost a horse, and after a fruitless search, being unable to learn anything of its whereabouts, he concluded that it was hopelessly lost. Some time in the winter Mr. Linscott went after his stack of hay, when the mystery of the absence of the horse was solved. There was the horse but the hay was mostly gone. To all appearance the horse had been living on it thus far, and for drink he had kept a path to a spring not far off, and had contrived to keep it open. [We have a well authenticated record of an instance where a horse had been left to himself, that displayed the singular instinct of going frequently to its watering place in cold weather, and pawing open the ice.]

#### 9. — PONDS.

North Pond is situated some short of two miles west of Parks' Mills, contains an area of more than 100 acres, and sends its surplus waters into the Bog Stream. Chesterville contains several ponds not yet described. The largest of these, of some 80 acres surface, in the southeast part of the town, (a small portion of it being in Vienna,) is called Perry's Pond, and empties into McGurdy's Stream. Whortleberry Pond lies north of North Pond, into which it runs by a stream of the same name. Sugar Stream, of about the same magnitude as Whortleberry Stream,

- rises in Jay and joins Whortleberry Stream from the west.

At the south-east border of the town is a large and beautiful sheet of water known as Parker's Pond.— This pond contains several picturesque islands. In the southern part of the town there are several brooks and streams, whose waters find their way to the Androscoggin through Parker's and a chain of other ponds in Mount Vernon, Fayette, Wayne, and Leeds.

#### 10. — THE PLAINS.

Among the natural features of the town "The Plains" deserve notice. These are some two miles long and half a mile wide, and lie east and south-east of Parks' Mills. The tract is by no means level; still there are patches that are nearly so. There were but few bushes or trees on The Plains when the settlement of the town was commenced, but there was quite a growth of blueberries, strawberries and grass. The tract had probably been frequently burned over by the Indians, which checked the growth of timber but promoted that of shrubs and grass. The pioneer settlers used The Plains as a common pasture for many years.

#### 11. — GEOLOGICAL CONJECTURE.

It is the opinion of some that almost the whole of Little Norridgewock and McGurdy's Streams, with a part of Wilson's Stream and Sandy River were once

engulfed in a large pond or lake, the outlet of which was near what is now called Smith's Mills, in Fayette, into the Androscoggin, and that the Ridge was then formed by the current. If the hills showing themselves on each side of New Sharon Falls were at some past period joined in one so as to stop the Sandy River in that direction, this state of things did exist, and such a conjecture is well founded.— The appearance of the bed of the river at the Falls and below, and the make of the intervalles for quite a distance down river, ( first a mixture of loam and coarse gravel, a little farther down fine gravel, and farther yet, sand, coarse and then fine,) indicate that such a cutting through the hills and running away of a lake did once take place. This opinion is rendered more plausible when the steepness of the hills on each side of the Falls is taken into account. We rarely find such shaped hills where no current has operated, unless formed of ledge. The Falls once thus submerged, testimony of the existence of such a lake is found in a deposite apparently formerly the bottom of a lake, and now slightly in some instances covered with soil.

Another fact corroborative of this belief is the existence of narrow patches of intervalle, one at and above the mills at the Falls, on the north side of the river, and another just below on the south side. This shows that a larger, wider channel than is needed for the ordinary flow of the river was made when the lake was drained, and as a matter of course has been partly filled up since. Nor is this a solitary

instance. The pond, hills, and stream near Wilton Upper Village, with the intervalles at. below, and southwesterly, to the Androscoggin, form a case in point. At the south end of Wilson's Pond, near the road to Bartlett's Corner, the land is only about twenty feet higher than the surface of the pond at its usual height. The hills at the village are doubtless somewhat higher, and if connected by an intervening ridge, would stop the stream and raise the pond. which, in such a case, would send its waters into the Androscoggin, not far above Jay Bridge.—The steep hills on the sides of the stream at the village, and the make of the bed of the stream and the land near it below, plainly show that the stream once cut its way through these hills.

#### 12. — EARLY SETTLERS.—ABRAHAM WYMAN.

Abraham Wyman was the first white inhabitant of what is now Chesterville. He began on the farm which has for several years been owned and occupied by Seth Norcross — about the year 1782. His family was the only one for about a year between Readfield or Mount Vernon and the Sandy River.—They lived in a quite lonely condition, having few if any callers or visitors, until Mr. Sewall and Mr. Linscott moved in, about three miles north of them. After this, (as Mrs. Wyman stated in after years,) Mrs. Sewall and Mrs. Linscott being sisters, used frequently to walk down to visit her, barefoot!

After a few years Mr. Wyman moved to Livermore. He did not reside there however many years, but re-

turned and lived with his son Daniel. He died in 1802, his wife in 1817.

13. — DUMMER SEWALL,

On the 23d day of March, 1783, after a toilsome journey of six days, with ox teams from Bath, Dummer Sewall, son of Col. Dummer Sewall of Bath,—arrived with his family, and commenced a residence on the farm lately occupied by his son, Otis C. Sewall. He had previously made a clearing and put up a camp, in which he and Mr. Linscott, with their families, took up their abode. Here they lived together for some time, or till Mr. Linscott had prepared a rough dwelling.

Some time in 1783 Mr. Sewall constructed a sleigh, the first made in the town, and probably the first in Franklin County. If now in existence it would be esteemed a great curiosity. The bottom was framed like others of that day, but with little if any iron work on it. The sides, forepart, and back of the top were of birch bark, doubled to make it more firm, and to show the same side of the bark outside and in. He and his wife and child rode in it to Bath, and returned again in it. Their visit to Bath was about ten months after their location in their wilderness home. Mrs. Wheeler, who informed the writer of this incident, had tested the sleigh by riding a short distance in it.

Two years after this Mr. Sewall built a double sleigh, as perhaps we should esteem it. He owned

no horse. Contemplating another journey with his family to Bath in this, he engaged one owned by Mr. Linscott, and to match it another belonging to Mr. Eaton of Sandy River. A day or two before his journey he got them together and harnessed, all but the long bridles, Mr. Linscott helping and his wife, with their child Andrew, four years old, looking on. The horses were regarded as very steady and gentle. Mrs. Linscott, with some urging, got in with her child. Immediately on this the horses started, and were soon in a fast run, up by Mr. Linscott's, he and Mr. Sewall endeavoring in vain to overtake them. Mrs. Linscott did her best to keep her child and herself from being hurt, but she could not keep her seat, but was tossed about in all parts of the sleigh. The horses ran on some two and a half miles, when, some half way down the north side of Locke's Hill, the strap holding up the tongue gave way, and the tongue was driven into the snow and even into the ground, tipping the sleigh and stopping the team. The shock threw the riders several feet into the snow, but did not hurt them. Mrs. Linscott being thinly clad, was poorly prepared for such a ride, and on clambering into the road, found her feet so cold that she sat down, rubbing them in the snow. She had barely finished this when her husband came up, and soon after him Mr. Sewall, who had been delayed a little by looking for the child beside the road. They soon got the team in such order that the horses gave Mr. Linscott a slow ride home.



Mr. Sewall, with others, in 1784 and 1785, built the first saw and grist mill in the town, on Little Norridgewock Stream, near the present site of Park's Mills, to which Stephen Titcomb of Sandy River, as tradition says, hauled the first log and helped saw it into boards. Mr. Sewall put up two or three other mills in later years, being a carpenter by trade. He raised quite a family, the oldest of whom, Dummer, was the first white child born in Chesterville. He was born Aug. 22, 1783. A lot of land near John Butterfield's was bestowed as a birthright, which was sold about the time he attained the age of 21. Mr. Sewall made and repaired cooper's ware soon after he became a resident in Chesterville. He lacked some of the tools necessary in this business.—Needing a "croze" he broke a piece from the point of a handsaw and made one. A piggin, a vessel with one stave extending higher than the others for a handle, would be a rare sight now; but the writer used to see them in his boyhood. They ordinarily contained about six quarts and were mostly used in milking. A two story house, raised Sept. 12, 1788, was built by Mr. Sewall, in which he lived many years. Mrs. Sewall once said, "It has stood sixty years and not a single death has occurred in it." This house has since been taken down. Mr. Sewall was the first Postmaster and Justice of the Peace in the town, both of which offices he filled several years. He died in February, 1846, at the age of 85 years. His wife died in May, 1852. [Mr. Sewall was conspicuous for industry, and his long life was one of great usefulness.]

## 14. — SAMUEL LINSYCOTT.

Samuel Linscott moved into the place with Dummer Sewall. He began on the next lot north of Mr. Sewall's. He helped build and carry on the first mills in the place, and owned one half of a sawmill built some eighteen years later. He carried on farming rather more extensively than his neighbors. He made one of the purchases of the town, and served the town as treasurer for the first two years after its incorporation, and as constable and collector during three years. Capt. Wyman, his brother and Mr. Linscott, once went on snowshoes to Moose Hill hunting. They found three moose and each selecting his object, fired. Two dropped dead, while one remained almost or entirely unhurt. Their dogs worried this one to madness when it rushed towards Mr. Linscott; Capt. Wyman in the mean time loading for another shot. Mr. L. dropped his gun and seized his axe, waiting the assault. The moose came rushing towards him, and just as he was crouching for his final spring, Mr. L. settled the axe into his head and thus killed him.

One of the first years of his residence here, Mr. Linscott needed potatoes to plant. Stephen Titcomb had some to spare. Mr. Linscott with his axe went and labored for Mr. Titcomb two days for two bushels of potatoes. At night of the second<sup>nd</sup> day he shouldered his potatoes and started for home. The stream had risen a little where he had crossed on a tree, so that when he was fairly on it with his load he found that it was afloat. He lost his axe,

and had to lay his bag of potatoes across the tree mostly in the water. Watching the most favorable opportunity, as well as he could judge in the darkness, he jumped for "dear life" towards the shore, He then went home. The next morning, with some help, he recovered his axe and potatoes. But the potatoes yielded him but a light return for all his labor and risk. as few of them ever grew.

Mr. Linscott's son Daniel, about eighteen years of age, was drowned in May, 1797. He was drowned just above the first sawmill, after it had been removed up stream, and his was the first death by drowning among the settlers of the town. He was tending the mill alone, and as is supposed, went to haul up a log, and that in doing it he got into the millpond, perhaps by sliding down between two logs. A man coming down the stream to mill in a canoe, seeing a hat upon the water and the mill running, gave the alarm. The body was not found till the next day. Mr. Linscott's younger son, Joseph, died in August 1789, at the age of about 18 months. This was the first death of a white person within the town. Mr. Linscott died in Nov., 1816; his wife in July, 1843. In the same house a sister of Mrs. Linscott—widow Hannah Foster,—died in May 1846, at the age of 94. Hers was the death of the oldest person to be found on the town records in 1856.

#### 15. — WILLIAM BRADBURY.

A few years after the settlements just recorded, William Bradbury began to clear the lot next north

of Mr. Linscott's, the farm on which his son William O. Bradbury, Esq. afterwards lived and died. He was a carpenter by trade, and he superintended the framing of many buildings in the vicinity. Soon after he made a beginning on his lot,—possibly before he had a family,—he went to Winthrop to mill, with a hand sled. He helped build and occupy one sawmill, owning one eighth part. This was the mill of which Mr. Linscott owned half. Mr. Bradbury worked on the first sawmill erected in Chesterville for others, but owned no part of it. He was one of the first board of Selectmen and Assessors of the town, and served in that capacity at different times seven years; as Clerk, fourteen years; and as Treasurer, twenty-six years. Out of the fifty-four years of the town's corporate existence up to April, 1856, he and his son, Wm. O. Bradbury, have had care of the town's treasury, in the same house, forty-one years. In later years he was deacon of the Baptist church in the town. Before and after this he frequently conducted religious meetings on the Sabbath, reading printed sermons when no minister was present. He commenced this practice soon after Rev. Jotham Sewall commenced preaching,—he having conducted such meetings, previous to that time.—These meetings were called "Society Meetings," in former days. They originated August 27, 1786, in Thomas Davenport's camp. The Wednesday evening prayer meetings, which were kept up with very few interruptions some forty-five or fifty years, originated in the same camp, May 21, 1788. Mr. Bradbury

conducted these many years, as well as the singing in a'l such meetings in the Plantation some twelve or fourteen years prior to 1810. He died in Nov., 1846, at the age of upwards of 80. His wife died in Nov., 1827, at the age of 67.

16. — JOHN MITCHELL.

About the date of Mr. Bradbury's commencement of improvements on his lot, John Mitchell began to clear the lot now, [1856] owned in part by David M. Hamilton, it being the second lot north of Mr. Bradbury's. He cleared some land and put up buildings a few years before he married and moved into his house. He had an interest in one sawmill at least, and did something at lumbering for a number of years, besides carrying on his farm. In the earlier days of the culture of the soil of this region, cultivators were unknown. Corn and potatoes were managed wholly by the hoe. No plow was introduced for several years. The first that the writer remembers of any operation of the kind was started by Mr. Mitchell. He prepered a yoke so that the oxen could walk with one row between them,—the ring and staple being placed close to the near ox. In this way, by shearing the plow a trifle, it could follow the near ox and do the work. Many pieces of corn and potatoes were cultivated in this way. After a few years, however, this mode was superseded by the horse and a light plow. Mr. Mitchell was chosen ensign in 1804, when the militia was first organized in town. He was promoted to the lieutenantcy,

and not long after, in 1810, resigned. He died at his son's in Bloomfield in January, 1850, at the age of 88 years, and was brought to Chesterville for interment. His wife died in Feb. 1839, at the age of 75 years.

#### 17. — JOTHAM SEWALL.

Jotham Sewall established his home on the lot north of Mr. Mitchell's — the farm where he lived and died, — in March, 1788. Like others of the pioneers he began to do something on his land about five years earlier. He planted a nursery of appletrees, — probably the first in what is now Franklin County, — in Sept. 1783. Some ten years after this he set out the first orchard. He once carried a grist to mill at Winthrop, on a handsled. He carried on his farm, working occasionally at his trade — that of a mason, — until about 1798, when he engaged in preaching the gospel. Much of his time after this, when health permitted, was spent in missionary labor, mostly in this state, though sometimes extended to other states. When he first raised apples to spare they could be exchanged, bushel for bushel, for corn. He died Oct. 3, 1850, at the age of 90 years. [See Appendix to this history for the most complete biographical sketch of Rev. Jotham Sewall now in existence.]

#### 18. — JOHN BRADBURY.

John Bradbury began on the lot next north of Mr. Sewall's, soon after him. He was a joiner and

glazier by trade, and for many years made most of the window sashes used in the vicinity. He also, in addition to his farm work, finished off many rooms. He always appeared to entertain a dread of poverty. Before he was married he was sleeping one night in his camp, on a bench, or rough temporary bed, when he dreamed he saw poverty, in the form of a large two story house, moving slowly in various directions. In his dream he had fears lest it should run over him and he watched its motions with intense interest. Soon it seemed to be moving towards him, and running in a direct line, was now about to run over and crush him sure enough. He put forth his utmost strength, and made a desperate leap and found himself awake several feet from his bunk. Striking the floor no doubt awoke him. Whether the dread above mentioned was hereditary or premonitory, or came over him in accordance with his natural temperament, it is not easy to decide. He became poor, however, before his death, which occurred in July, 1851. His first wife died in April, 1831.

#### 19. — ABRAHAM AND THOMAS DAVENPORT.

Near the same time, Abraham and Thomas Davenport began respectively on the two lots next north. The wife of Abraham Davenport was sister to the wife of Rev. Jotham Sewall. Thomas Davenport married a sister of John and William Bradbury, and his first child, Nathaniel, was born Feb. 29, 1792. It was said of him that his birthday came only once in four years. It was an occurrence very rare for a birth to take place on that day.

Not many years elapsed before they returned to Hallowell where they had formerly resided. The former left about two years before the latter, who left in April, 1799. The former carried on the tallow chandler's business in Hallowell a number of years, but died at his son's in Mobile, Alabama, about 1851. His wife died in Hallowell. Thomas is supposed to have resided in Hallowell the remainder of his life.

20. — JOSHUA B. LOWELL.

The next lot north was taken up by Joshua B. Lowell, son of Reuben Lowell, one of the early settlers in Farmington. He opened the first house for the entertainment of travelers, within the limits of the present town, while it was yet a plantation. He was chosen the first Clerk, and served the town in that office nine consecutive years. He served also as Selectman and Assessor six years, and was the second Postmaster in the town. A paralytic shock rendered him helpless some four years before his death, which took place in March, 1821. His age was 55 years. His wife died in November, 1822.

21. — EDWARD LOCKE.

Pretty early among the settlers last described, Edward Locke arrived from New Hampshire. His family lived a short time in John Mitchell's house, while he was making a beginning on the lot next north of Mr. Lowell's, and putting up a log house. His lot



was considerably larger than others south of it. He preached occasionally, mostly in places adjacent. It was not, however, many years before he left the place. Some of his sons occupied the farm, and he, occasionally, with several changes, and a few interruptions, until about 1828, when it was divided and passed into other hands. On this large lot there are now four residences, and about ten others own parts of it. Mr. Locke was supposed to own more property than any other man in the place; for he had several pieces of real estate in other towns. At the time of his decease he owned a house and lot in Augusta. He died in March, 1824. His son Ward, a preacher of the Freewill Baptist denomination, occupied the farm some ten years, the closing part of his life. He died in November, 1828.

#### 22. — JOHN WHEELER.

John Wheeler, senior, moved into the place from York in 1793. He had several children, lived a year or two in a log house then recently vacated by the removal of Jotham Sewall into the framed house he had built, and then moved to the place he afterwards bought of the state, where Enoch Black now [1856] resides, south of Sand Pond. Mr. Wheeler was a tailor by trade, the first in the town—at which trade he worked a part of the time. He was born in May, 1750, as appears by the town record. His wife died of typhus fever in March, 1814, and his daughter Sally, about two months after. His son's wife, living near, died May 8, and Mrs. Chandler, a married

daughter, May 15, of the same year. A few years after these afflictive events he sold and went to Wilton, living in the family of Mr. Hiscock, who married his youngest daughter, where it is understood he died some years ago, at the age of about 90. It was generally believed that he was born in England. Mrs. Wheeler, when probably about fifty years old, more than once went to her son John's, fully three miles, over bad roads, carrying her flax, and spun two double skeins of linen, and returned home at night, traveling both ways on foot.

### 23. — SAMUEL JUDKINS.

Samuel Judkins, senior, was the second<sup>d</sup> settler in the south part of the town, then called Wyman's Plantation. He first lived near a large spring south of the dwelling house of Moses French. This was probably about 1786 or 7. Not long after he took up a lot west of the Ridge, where Burnham Morrill now lives, and where Mr. Judkins put up buildings and resided the remainder of his life. He died in July, 1803. His body was carried about two and a half miles to be buried. For this purpose a long bier was prepared. The poles were placed a sufficient distance asunder to admit a horse between them. When ready, with the coffin upon it,—a saddled horse at each end of the bier, between the poles,—the bier was raised, and each end of a pole placed in a stirrup of the saddle, and thus conveyed to the place of interment by two horses. Mr. Judkins had several sons. Samuel, jr., was remarkable for the

ability to turn one heel forward, standing with his feet parallel,—toe to heel,—beside each other. He lived a few years near where his father began, but subsequently resided in different places. Joseph and Benjamin were fifer and drummer to the militia company when first organized. Of the latter Rev. Jotham Sewall in his Journal of May 10, 1800, says, "With S. W. Eaton visited Benj. Judkins, who was very low. He had been struck in the ham by a porcupine's tail, and some of the quills had worked through his leg."

#### 24. — DANIEL WYMAN.

While Mr. Judkins lived near the large spring, Daniel Wyman, son of Abraham Wyman, came from Readfield, built a house and resided a little north of him. He lived here till about two years after he was chosen Captain, (as elsewhere stated,) when he removed to Livermore. A year or two after, however, found him returned, with his father and mother. Not far from this date he built a house and began to reside where Franklin Currier now lives, which is on the same lot where he first built. He lived here quite a number of years. He was somewhat noted as a hunter, and in the latter years of his life he was heard to say that he had shot one moose at least on every square mile for several miles around. A few years after 1820 he sold his farm and moved to Kingfield, living with one of his sons. When almost 70 years old he visited another son residing near the Dead River. Here he was on the day that

completed his "three score and ten." That day, with his favorite, the gun, well loaded, he made a hunting excursion, with one attendant. As they were in a canoe on the Dead River, they espied two moose swimming across. He was told to fire. "Not yet," said he. The moose were soon climbing the river bank near each other. Then he fired. On examination it was found that the ball had passed through the vitals of one, killing it outright, and then broke a leg of the other, so that he was soon dispatched. Thus he killed two moose at one shot the day he was seventy years old. Two credible persons informed the writer that they had seen the ball that executed this feat. In the days so far back towards our Revolutionary struggle, as were those that dawned upon the early settlement of this region, the military spirit prevailed. Wyman's Plantation, with a part or all of the present town of Vienna, (then called Goshen,) united in forming a company of militia, some years before either town was incorporated. At the organization of this company Daniel Wyman was chosen and commissioned Captain, and he continued in office about two years. He found the cost of uniforming and equipping himself, and the "treating" then customary, bore too heavily upon his purse. He served in the Revolutionary War and has been known to say that he had taken as good aim at a man as he ever had at a moose. He rendered much assistance in 1804 and 1805 to the officers of the company in Chesterville, then recently organized.

## 25. — SAMUEL PERRY.

Samuel Perry settled on the present Elisha Perry farm about the date of the settlement of Daniel Wyman. He had been a Revolutionary soldier, and his wife, who outlived him more than thirty-four years, drew a pension on account of his services. He built a house of hewn timber, put up something like a log house, where he lived many years. This house was taken down several years ago. He died in 1821, at the age of 86. His wife died in 1855, at the age of more than ninety.

## 26.—MR. RUSSELL—ANDREW DUNNING.

In the south-west part of the town, where David Gordon now lives, a Mr. Russell, father of Dr. L. W. Russell, settled at an early day. Being one of the first settlers west of the Ridge, that neighborhood took its name, — Russellborough, — from him. He left the town not many years after. Near the same time Andrew Dunning settled not far from Isaac Eaton's present location but continued there only a year or two.

## 27. — JEREMIAH BRAGDON.

Not much, if any, after the preceding, Jeremiah Bragdon settled where Moses French now lives. Being a blacksmith he carried on blacksmithing as well as farming. He was the first blacksmith in town. He joined the Congregational church in 1797, and being a good reader he frequently read sermons and

conducted religious meetings in Wyman's Plantation, on the Sabbath, when no minister was in attendance. He probably had improved better advantages of education than most of those around him. About the commencement of the present century he became insane. He was an athletic man, and three of his neighbors had their hands full to confine him when first taken. He would contrive to do some mischief even when bound with a little slack chain. If near enough, he would get his head into the fire, unless closely watched. He was taken care of at different places, but mostly at home, by those living in the vicinity, for a year or two, at least. His insanity afterwards measurably left him. In after years he seemed to think that he must sound every letter in all his words when talking. It was amusing to hear him do this in such words as, though, bought, slaughter, could, would, &c. He would not only give a quick sound to gh, and l, in these and like words, but to u the full sound, as of w in cow, and the w a like sound, or speak the letter in all words where it is silent. He died in Nov., 1812; his wife in Nov., 1806.

#### 28. — JOSEPH AND MOSES FRENCH.

The closing ten years of the last century brought a number of inhabitants into Wyman's Plantation. Joseph French, a native of New Hampshire, lived and died where Isaac French now resides. In April, 1791, he came by a spotted line for three miles, by way of Starling, now Fayette, to begin on his lot. He and his brother Moses built and lived in a camp

near the south line of the town, while they were making a beginning in clearing their land. They came on foot from South Hampton, N. H., with packs on their backs and six day's provisions. Joseph French was then nearly twenty-one, and had not previously been thirty miles from home. The spotted line above mentioned was south of the late Daniel Bachelder's, now in Fayette, who had settled on the place where he lived many years, a short time before. Here Mr. French and his brother made a short stay, until they put up a camp. He labored on his lot in summers, and went back to New Hampshire to spend the winters, for three years. He and his brother camped together a part of the time, and husked their corn in the camp by firelight or moonlight, in the evenings of Autumn. One evening, while thus employed, a bear came snuffing around, looked in, and snapped his teeth, but dared not venture in, for fear of the fire. The next morning Mr. Judkins came along with his dog where they were gathering corn. The dog scented the bear and found him in the edge of the woods asleep, but they did not capture him. Mr. French took many a load of corn to Hallowell with his oxen, and sold it for two shillings a bushel. On returning he not unfrequently moved up families who were emigrating to the forest frontier. In one instance he was obliged to tie a woman and child on the top of a load, to keep them from falling off. Occasionally he would drive all night. He served the town as Selectman and Assessor seventeen years, and was a Justice of the Peace one or more terms. He served the Congregational

Church as Deacon, thirty-two of the last years of his life. He was a joiner by trade, and worked at his trade in connection with his farming operations.— He was a successful farmer and an industrious citizen. He died in Nov., 1841; his wife in Nov., 1855.

29. — JONA. FELLOWS, MOSES BACHELDER, PHINEAS BACHELDER, JESSE SOPER.

Jonathan Fellows, senior, lived near the present residence of Henry Whitney. He served the town as Selectman two years. He died in April, 1854; his wife in July, 1827. Moses Bachelder on the south, and Phineas Bachelder on the north of Mr. Fellows, and Asa Soper, near where Jesse Soper now lives, all began settlements in this period. Mr. Soper died in 1842, at the age of 76; his wife in 1844, at the age of 70. Moses Bachelder died in 1844. Phineas Bachelder died in 1856; his wife several years before.

30. — SAMUEL W. EATON.

In 1794, Samuel W. Eaton settled where his son, John Eaton, now resides. He occupied the farm for the remainder of his life as his home, though he spent most of his time, for fifteen years or more, prior to 1827, at sea. He made no foreign voyages, except one to the West Indies, but was engaged mostly in coasting and fishing. Though he never studied navigation, he was so well acquainted with the rivers and harbors on our sea coast that he was esteemed a good pilot. He died in 1831; his wife in 1842.



## 31. — JOSEPH JONES.

Joseph Jones, the second blacksmith in town, a trade at which he worked a part of his time, settled where Gustavus Clarke now lives. He was the first lieutenant in the militia of the town and was promoted to the rank of captain. While he was an officer, or soon after, he sold his farm and bought where William Hathaway began; but he lived there but a few years, when he exchanged farms with Phineas Whitney, and removed to Cumberland County. He is supposed to be yet [1356] living in Aroostook County.

## 32. — AARON FELLOWS

Aaron Fellows, sen., settled where his son Aaron now lives. He was one of the Selectmen during the first two years of the town's corporate existence.— He worked at shoemaking as well as farming. He attended the annual townmeeting, March 7, 1853, then near eighty years of age. He died a little more than a year after. Mrs. Fellows died in 1849. About the year 1797, Mr. Fellows was hauling a load of boards from the Center Mills, with four oxen and a pair of wheels. When he got on the Ridge, nearly opposite the bog north of McGurdy's Pond he missed something which he had supposed to be on his load. Leaving his team he went back, expecting every moment to find the missing article. He reached the mill, however, before he found it; and returning as expeditiously as he could, he found his load, wheels and oxen, tumbled down the east

side of the Ridge; which there is rather steep.— The load was lodged against a bunch of birch bushes near the foot of the Ridge, the hind oxen in quite an uncomfortable position — one on the other, the other still fast to the cart. His first movement was to cut off the bow and liberate the upper ox; but finding this difficult and risky, he cut off the tongue of the cart. He then drove the oxen up the side of the Ridge as fast as he could and went home with them. The next day, with some help, he got up the cart and boards.

### 33. — MOSES WALTON,—JACOB CARR.

Moses Walton, sen., moved from Salisbury, Mass., to Sterling, now Fayette, about 1790. Six years later he settled in Wyman's Plantation, where Charles Walton, his grandson, now resides. About the same time, or a little earlier, Jacob Carr settled near Mr. Walton's. Mr. Carr was Constable and Collector three years from 1813. Not long after this he sold his farm and left the town.

### 34. — SAMUEL FRENCH.

Early in the present century Samuel French, sen., settled where Benj. S. French now resides. He died in 1831. Near the same time Dearborn French began to clear the farm where he now resides.

### 35. — JOHN BEAN.

Early in the closing decade of the last century John Bean, son of Joshua Bean of Readfield, built

a house and settled on the farm where he lived and died, near the west line of the town. He was an enterprising farmer. His improved land was much of it in Jay. John Locke, son of Edward Locke, began in Jay on the lot next north of Mr. Bean's, at the same time. The first trees they cut lay side by side. They labored much together. When chopping down their first trees they planned for their corn-cribs. They selected four trees, about twenty-five feet apart, nearly in a square; these they cut some six feet from the ground, as squarely as they could, on the tops. Before the next corn harvest they placed two sizeable spruce logs on these stumps, as distant from each other, and as nearly parallel to each other as they could. Across these they placed several others, spotted so as to lay steadily. On the last sleepers they built their corn cribs, of poles, covered with spruce bark or corn stalks, to shed off the rain. Here the corn was well preserved, and was so high that the bars could not get to it. It was threshed and marketed the following winter.—Mr Bean served the town as Moderator at thirteen annual meetings, as Selectman one year, and as Constable and Collector four years. He died in 1854, at the age of 84. His wife died in 1850, aged 76.

### 36. — WILLIAM HATHAWAY.

About the time of the settlement of Mr. Bean, William Hathaway began on a lot near where Jacob W. Butterfield now resides, and where Zebulon Taylor recently resided. After a few years he sold

to Capt. Jones, and left the town. When Mr. H. began to clear his lot it was in Tyngtown, now Wilton, and the lot was one of the northerly ones, afterwards set off from Wilton to Chesterville.

### 37. — JOHN WHEELER, JR.

Having previously cleared some land and built a house, John Wheeler jr., who had married Mr. Linscott's eldest daughter, took up his residence on a lot on Linscott's Purchase, about a mile easterly from the Center Mills, in the year 1800. He continued to reside there about twenty-three years, when he bought a farm not far from the Mills, and removed there. A few years after he took down the buildings on his back lot, but still continued to own and improve it. He was a very industrious man. He died in 1855. Mrs. Wheeler, his widow, is the only known survivor of the first settlers in Chester Plantation. She was about six years old when her father moved into the place, which was in March, 1783, and an event she very well remembers. Not far from 1840 she became blind. At first she could distinguish day from night, but latterly it is all one continued night to her bodily eyes. She distinguishes her acquaintances by the tones of their voices, and seems very intelligent and of good memory.— The writer is indebted to her for many incidents he has recorded.

### 38. — CLARKE WHITTIER,

Is said to have been the earliest settler in the north-east part of the town. He began on the farm

now occupied by Mr. Dike; sold to Thomas Williams, sen., and not long after left the town.

39. — MOSES WHITTIER

Commenced not far from the present residence of John W. Sanborn, about the same time, which was not far from 1788.

40. — THOMAS GORDON, SEN.,

Settled on the farm where Benning Glines now lives, in 1790 or 1791. He resided on the place a number of years. He died in 1825 at the age of more than 80 years.

41. — PHINEAS WHITTIER, — RICHARD MADDOCKS.

Other settlers in that vicinity followed within the next four or five years. Phineas Whittier settled where Peter Whittier now lives, and Richard Maddocks, sen, where his son Richard resides. John Butterfield, sen., settled where his son John resides.

42. — THOMAS WILLIAMS, SEN.,

About this period. bought of Clarke Whittier. Mr. Williams was a joiner by trade. He was Selectman for the first three years of the town's corporate action, and the first Captain of the militia company in the town, to which office he was elected in 1804.— He died in 1810, Phineas Whittier in 1828, Mr. Maddocks in 1839, and Mr. Butterfield in 1818.

43. — NEWELL GORDON.

A little later than the date of the last stated settlements, Newell Gordon began to clear the farm

now occupied by Mr. Lufkin. He served the town two years as Selectman, and as Constable and Collector two years. He died in 1848.

#### 44. — JOHN OAKES.

Where David Oakes now resides John Oakes his father commenced living in 1808. The two lots owned and occupied by him had been partially cleared by his brother, Eben Oakes, who is said to be still living in Madrid. Otis Corbet, afterwards of Farmington, had also made a beginning. Mr Oakes died in 1839. In this part of the town, David Williams, John Allen, Daniel Streeter, and perhaps others, were among the early inhabitants, but the writer is not acquainted with their history.

#### 45. — MEMORABLE ACCIDENT.

An accident of a serious character took place in this part of the town not far from 1809. Some half a mile easterly from John Butterfield's, Horatis G. Quincy was engaged in felling trees. A tree he had cut lodged on another, and he stepped forward and cut upon the tree that held the other up. It soon gave way, split up, broke, and slid back, the sharp end catching one of his legs at the ankle, and drove it into the ground. When the tree fell it threw out his foot, but it was almost severed from the leg,—only the strong cords at the heel holding it. After some delay, physicians being called in who dared not amputate,—Dr. Mann of Hallowell, arrived. He did not arrive, however, till some twen-

ty-five or thirty hours after the occurrence. He amputated the leg; Mr. Quincy recovered, and afterwards became a healthy and robust man.

46. — DAVID MORRILL.

The pioneer of the village at Farmington Falls, on the Chesterville side of the river, was David Morrill. He was a native of New Hampshire, and removed with his father's family to Readfield when he was about fourteen years old. He served an apprenticeship with Thomas Williams, sen., and was married to a daughter of Deacon J. F. Woods in 1801. He built a house a little north-easterly of Deacon Woods', where he lived a few years. He then built the house which is the present residence of T. Crosswell, Esq., and removed his family into it. He next built a house on the Chesterville side of the Sandy River, into which he removed his family in 1810. A short time before this there was little, if any, cleared land near the river at this place.— Mr. Morrill was Justice of the Peace, and one authorized to qualify civil officers, for several years. He served the town as Selectman four years, and as representative two years. He was a carpenter, joiner, and brick mason, and worked occasionally at all these trades as well as farming. He was killed by a fall in his barn, which produced death almost instantly. His death occurred in December, 1842, at the age of 63. Mrs. Morrill died of paralysis, in Oct., 1857, at the age of 77.

## 47. — TOWN MEETINGS.

According to a journal kept by Rev. Jotham Sewall the question of the separation of Maine from Massachusetts was agitated in 1792. Monday the 7th day of May of that year was appointed for the people of Maine to meet and vote on the question. He writes; "Met in the afternoon at Dummer Sewall's. Nine votes for, and two against separation."

The inhabitants of Chester Plantation, (see record made by Dummer Sewall,) applied to Stephen Titcomb, Esq., to call the first Plantation Meeting of which the writer has been able to find any record. Pursuant to his warrant the meeting was held at Joshua B. Lowell's, Innholder, the 3rd Monday in March, 1799. Dummer Sewall was chosen Clerk, Thomas Williams, William Bradbury, and Joshua B. Lowell, Assessors; and Samuel Linscott, Thomas Gordon, and John Butterfield, Surveyors. The 1st Monday in April of the same year another meeting was held at Thomas Williams' where it was voted to raise \$200 to repair highways, fixing the price of labor on the highways at one dollar a day in June and July, eighty cents in August and September, and sixty-six cents in October and November. Another meeting was convened at Joshua B. Lowell's, March 10, 1800, at which the Clerk and Assessors were reelected, and more surveyors chosen. The price of labor on the highways was fixed at the same rates as the year before, with the exception of a change to fifty cents for October and November. The rates of ox labor were the same as those for



men. April 6, 1801, a majority of the Plantation agreed to repair or rebuild the bridge at Sewall's Mills, and subscribed forty-five dollars for the purpose, "if the rest would help;" the amount to be paid in work at a dollar a day. The act incorporating the town bears date Feb. 20, 1802, and authorized Stephen Titcomb, Esq., to call the first meeting. His warrant for the purpose, directed to Dummer Sewall, one of the inhabitants, was dated March 10, 1802. Pursuant to this the first meeting was held on the first Monday in April following the 5th day, at which time they not only organized, but voted for State and County officers. Jotham Sewall was the first Moderator. The meetings of the town, for the first few years, were held at Joshua B. Lowell's. Afterwards for several years in the Schoolhouse in School District No. 1. Once each, at least, they met in the Schoolhouses of Nos. 2, 4, and 7, in later years. After this the gallery of the old Meeting-house was used for this purpose a number of years. Since 1851 the town has met, mostly, in Robinson's or Whittier's Hall, near the Center Mills.

#### 48. — MILLS.

The first Sawmill in Chesterville was erected by Dummer Sewall and a few others, in April, 1784, and was put in operation the following year. In 1785, too, the first Gristmill was put in motion, either under the Sawmill roof, or in a small addition attached. It had one run of stones. This mill stood near the present site of Park's Mill. The dam be-

ing rather low, so that the head was small, and the backwater retarding the motion of the wheels considerably, the mill was taken down, July 6, 1753, and six days after re-erected some fifteen or twenty rods further up-stream, where a new dam was built the first dam being taken up. Mr. Sewall and Mr. Linscott owned and run the Gristmill together. Before this was entirely worn out Mr. Sewall built a Sawmill near, but a little below. A building connected with this was the third Gristmill in town. It had one run of stones. A shop was built a few years later, north-west of these, but near, in which a small saw was put in motion for splitting plank, &c. He added in width to the Sawmill enough to accommodate another saw. Not long after this the shop was taken down, and the Sawmill and Gristmill sold.— Another saw was put into the Sawmill, run a few years and then taken out; the irons being sold to Dummer Sewall. These mills were burned in the Spring of 1819, just after J. W. Butterfield had sold them. The first Sawmill having become decayed and useless, in 1803 or 1804, Samuel Linscott and others built a Sawmill some distance below these, and drew water to carry it through a very long flume. This having become partially decayed, in 1819 it was taken down. Some of the old owners selling out, and others joining in the enterprise, a double Sawmill was erected in October 1819, where Parks' Mill now stands. A new dam was built just above this mill, with a wasteway on its south-east side; and a Gristmill was put up on the other side

of the wasteway. These mills did a fair business for several years. A Fullingmill, too, adjoining the Gristmill was in operation some time. The Sawmill was reduced to one saw, and Clapboard and Shingle Machines put in the place of the other. In Jan. 1849 these mills were burned, and the present ones were erected soon after.

About 1823, or 4, Dummer Sewall made another dam some distance below, and put up a Sawmill. At this some business was done in sawing boards, clapboards, &c., for several years. It became somewhat decayed and was taken down a number of years ago. It stood near the present site of the Starch Factory.

#### 49. — TIMBER LANDS.

Around the Center Mills, and in several other parts of the town, there were originally extensive growths of pine; which, if standing now, at the present worth, would be of immense value. The advance in the price of pine timber has been great since the early settlement of Chesterville. A few facts will illustrate this statement. A tract esteemed one of the most valuable and beautiful in the town, not far from 1817, was purchased for \$1400, which had almost trebled in value within the five previous years. Within the next eighteen years enough was cut off and sold, amply to refund the purchase money, when it was sold for nine thousand dollars.— Another tract, though formerly of small value, was bought for \$35. During the next twenty-four years

three hundred dollars was realized for timber cut off. It was then sold for one thousand seven hundred dollars. In 1825, a seven acre lot in the north-east part of the town was valued by an appraising committee at \$22. About eighteen years after a similar committee set the same lot at \$150. Considerable timber had been cut off in the interim.

#### 50. — KEITHS MILL'S.

The Sawmill built in 1792, on Wilson's Stream, at what has since been called Keith's Mills, although on the north side of the stream, as it then was, stood, no doubt, within the present limits of Chesterville; and was the second in the town which was put in operation. The Gristmill erected about the same time, stood north, or in shore of the Sawmill, and just outside, in the stream of the present Sawmill. The town line, probably, laid through this Gristmill. As the propelling wheel was in the southerly part of the building, and the stones not far from the middle, it may not improperly be called the second Gristmill in the present town. These mills were built by Samuel Sewall. Not far from the beginning of the present century he sold to Rufus Davis. After occupying them a few years Mr. Davis sold to Edward Locke. He occupied them very little, and they ran down. The upper part of the Sawmill frame was taken down, moved to the Locke farm, and became a cider house. A freshet destroyed the dam immediately above the Gristmill,

and undermined and partially carried it away. Just before this a new Sawmill standing nearly or quite its length down-stream of the present one, had been raised by the predecessors of the owners of that now existing. This was about 1809.

The first Gristmill on the south side of the stream at this place was built by Edward Locke and his son not far from 1811. The stones of the old mill were used. This underwent some alterations, the frame being once rebuilt; but, in August 1828 it was sold to Jonas Davis, who built a new mill, which did a fair business. Within a few years he has put in Burr stones for wheat, which, with a good bolt and cleanser, and a corn-cob cracker, makes this a valuable mill. He has also a shingle machine, a circular cross-cut saw, and a machine for washing clothes, propelled by water. Lately he has added a thresher and some other machinery.

51. — E. BENNET'S AUGER FACTORY. — JOSEPH KEITH'S FULLING AND CARDING MILL.

About 1816 Elisha Bennet, jr. put up a shop just below the then existing Gristmill, and put in motion a trip-hammer, the second in town. He carried on the auger making business, and some other kinds of smith work for a year or two and then sold out and left the town. Joseph Keith was the purchaser.— He run carding machines in this building, fulling, colored and dressed cloth, a few years, when he moved it off and put up the present fulling and carding mill. Here, with some partners at different times, he has done a good business.

## 52. — COLLINS LOVEJOY'S AXE FACTORY.

In 1840 Collins Lovejoy, jr., built a shop a few rods below Keith's Felling-mill. He put in motion a trip-hammer, and applied water power to propel a grindstone, emery polishing wheels, blow his fires, &c. Here he carried on the axe making business a few years, to a greater extent than any one else in this region. Although the stream at this place is not the town line, still the Sawmill on the north side is in Farmington. This has been much improved of late, and includes a Threshing Machine, Shingle Machine, Circular and Jig Saws, a Circular Crosscut Saw, a Lathe, and a superior Planing Machine.

## 53. — AN UNFINISHED SAWMILL.

In 1783 Benjamin Whittier and one or two others with him built a dam across Wilson's Stream a few rods below what is called the Whittier Bridge, and erected a Sawmill. This, however, was never put in operation; for within a year or two a freshet gullied around the end of the dam, and swept almost the whole structure down river. The soil being sandy, with a bed of clay underneath, a dam could not well stand unless very thoroughly made and secured, which would not repay the cost.

## 54.—CHANGE OF TOWN LINE.

This was in the territory included in Chesterville at its incorporation, as Farmington was bounded by a direct line from the mouth of the Little Norridge-wock to the mouth of Wilson's Stream. This placed

the stream wholly in Chesterville at the site of this mill. Between the two points above mentioned the stream was made the town line, a few years after the incorporation of Chesterville. This was the second Sawmill erected in this town.

#### 55.—MILLS AT FARMINGTON FALLS.

The first mill in Chesterville at Farmington Falls was built about 1830 for dressing hemp. The hemp mania, (if this is the right term,) which had raged awhile, dying away, the building was used for carding wool and various other purposes. It has a Planing Machine, Lathe, Circular Saw, &c.

A few years later a Sawmill was built just above the Hemp Mill. It did a good business for several years, and contained some other machinery under the same roof. In Oct. 1855 it was carried away by a freshet, and rebuilt in 1857. That freshet was believed to have been the highest and most powerful freshet within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, not excepting that of 1820, which swept off the bridge and all the mills at Farmington Falls.—The freshet of 1855 rose twenty-two feet above low water mark at the bridge. A building has been put up and finished within two or three years past, just below the old Hemp Mill, and near the Bridge, intended for a Machine Shop. It contains a Shingle Machine and Threshing Machine. (Now, 1875, used for a Spool Factory and Gristmill.)

#### 56.—WING'S MILLS.

In 1805 Allen Wing built a Sawmill in the south-east part of the town, on a stream rising in Fayette

and falling into Parker's Pond This mill did a good business under the management of David and Alden Wing, sons of Allen Wing, for years. Quantities of red oak for ship's plank were sawed here. A Grist-mill, Shingle Machine and Clapboard Machine were afterwards put in operation a little below the Saw-mill. In these mills much grinding has been done, and much lumber has been shaped for market.

#### 57.—ACCIDENT TO ELI L. WING.

By a belt connected with some of the machinery of these mills, Eli L. Wing, David Wing's son, lost his arm in 1837. As he was adjusting a belt his hand was caught, and in a moment his arm with the shoulder blade was torn from his body. He was little better than dead when found a few minutes after, but by good attention he finally recovered. An individual who viewed the place soon after the occurrence informed the writer that by the blood spattered overhead and around the walls of the room it was evident the arm must have been carried around with the belt many times.

#### 58.—MELANCHOLY DEATH OF DANIEL BACHELDER.

On the 15th day of January 1858, a still more serious occurrence took place in the building, and within a few feet of the same spot where young Wing lost his arm. Mr. Daniel Bachelder, aged about 50, who owned the Shingle Machine and Grist-mill, went below to help start his shingle wheel, which was somewhat fastened with ice. He took



with him an axe and an iron bar. About an hour after he was found dead, by David Wing, who happened to be there on business, near where he found his son in 1839. The wheel was going. The body of Mr. Bachelder lay balanced across a fence or railing near the wheel, his feet touching or very near it. The iron bar was standing against this railing as though placed there after being used. The axe was found in another place. On one arm of a wheel just above the platform covering the waterwheel was a mark evidently made by a blow from the bar point. Some violent blow had bruised and injured the side of Mr. Bachelder's face, and had broken his neck. The probability is that the blow came from the bar on the starting of the wheel, and that his death was instantaneous. He is represented to have been a very worthy citizen, an honest man and a humble Christian.

Wing's Mill's after being purchased by Benjamin and Daniel Bachelder, were considerably improved.

#### 55.—MILL BELOW SAND POND.

In the early part of the present century William Bennet put up a shop on the brook between Sand Pond and Locke's Pond, and set in motion a trip-hammer, the first in town, together with some other machinery. The stream at the place is small, but the power is increased by a fall of about twenty feet. Mr. Bennet sold his interest a few years after, and a Shingle Machine or Clapboard Machine, or both, were run some time, and then a Lathe, but the power had ceased to be used in 1856.

## 60.—MILLS ON MCGURDY'S STREAM.

About 1816 Francis Tufts put a dam across McGurdy's Stream near its mouth and built a Sawmill. Some three years after he sold to John Oakes and others, who put up a frame for a Gristmill, but never put the mill in operation. They repaired the dam which, resting on a bed of sand, had been undermined, and run the saw. Part of these owners sold to Leonard and Joel Billings in 1824, and soon after the latter put in operation the first Oil Mill in the town. In 1827 the privilege was destroyed by a freshet. Not long after Billings and Russ built a dam a few rods above the site of the old one and put up a Sawmill, and Joel Billings erected an Oil Mill at the same time. A few years later the mills changed owners and a Shingle Machine was introduced. About 1842 the mills having become dilapidated by age were abandoned, and the power has not been since used. McGurdy's Stream is peculiar for the warmth of its water, has comparatively little descent or fall in its course, and runs along a sandy valley through a channel in which few stones appear. The volume of water is not large, and a dam and mill above Whittier's Pond interfered somewhat with the operations of the mills whose history is here given.

## 61.—SAWMILL ABOVE WHITTIER'S POND.

In 1827 a Sawmill was built in Chesterville by several men residing in Vienna. This was on Mc-

Gurdy's Stream, some three-fourths of a mile above Whittier's Pond, and less than half a mile northerly from the bridge and road near Cyrus S. Whittier's residence. The mill run down by decay about 1844, and a new one was built in 1845 by Saunders Morrill and Thomas Dow. Mr. Dow afterwards succeeded to the whole ownership. Both the first and second mills had a profitable amount of business.

#### 62.—STARCH FACTORY.

A starch Factory, the first and only one in town, was erected in 1844 on the lower mill privilege at the Center Mills. It stands on or near the ground which had been occupied by the last Sawmill built by Dummer Sewall. It was profitably operated for a few years, when an unforeseen calamity, the potato rot, interfered with the business. It was run, however, to a limited extent, many years after every other similar establishment in the county had been abandoned.

#### 63.—TANNERIES.

The first Tannery in town was started by Barnabas P. Merrick about 1807. It was on the south side of the stream, near, but a little above the Bridge, at the Center Mills. Water drawn from the long flume of Linscott and others propelled a stone for grinding bark a number of years. Mr. Merrick likewise manufactured boots and shoes. About 1822 he sold his tannery and moved to Pittsfield. A year or two after Mr. Merrick started his business at the

Center Mills. Billings & Maddocks started the business near the residence of the latter, in the north-east part of the town. They carried it on together till about 1816, when they dissolved partnership.— After this Mr. Maddocks prosecuted the business a few years at the old stand. Mr. Billings put down vats and built a tan-house on his own land, (the Clarke Whittier farm,) and carried on the business several years. Neither of the yards are now used.

About 1824 Stephen and John Gilman made a beginning at the yard now existing at the Center Mills, opposite the Starch Factory. They soon failed, however, and removed from the place. Several others have successively owned and improved the yard. In 1856 a cast iron Bark Mill, propelled by water power, prepared the tan for use, a large building covered the vats, with an attic for finishing leather. It was then carried on by Riggs & Philbrick. [Mr. Riggs has since become sole proprietor and an account of the improvements he has introduced will make an interesting chapter of the appendix to this history.]

A little west of this tan-yard are two or three buildings used for the manufacture of matches

#### 64.—WERE'S TANNERY.

About 1833 Joseph E. Were put up buildings and made a tan-yard at Farmington Falls on the Chesterville side of the river not far below the Bridge. This establishment had many conveniences and facilities for saving labor and tanning at any season of

the year. It was on a scale superior to most tanneries in the vicinity. After a few years it was destroyed by fire, and rebuilt on a somewhat smaller scale. The business was carried on a few years longer by Mr. Were and Mr. Bunter, but was at length abandoned, and the buildings taken down or converted to other uses.

#### 65.—FIRST MEETING - HOUSE.

The first Meeting-house in Chesterville was raised June 15, 1815. The dimensions were about forty-five by thirty-six feet, with nineteen feet posts. It was put up mostly by the Congregationalists and Baptists, and was started by voluntary subscription. It was boarded and the roof was shingled, so that a Sabbath meeting was held in it on the 16th of July of the same year. The stand for the preacher was made of rough planks placed on carpenter's saw-horses, and two of them were the pieces of a plank which broke under two men while placing the rafters in raising. The men saved themselves from falling with the plank by catching on the timbers, although one of them had a broad axe in his hand. The seats, too, were all rough and temporary. The house was clapboarded, the doors were hung and the pulpit built within the next two or three years, but the pews were not made till 1820. The previous year the pews were sold and conveyed according to a plan, for enough to pay for the house; at which time some other denominations became owners. After several years it was re-clapboarded and painted

white, and the pulpit, which had been high, lowered down. It was used for meetings on the Sabbath and at other times, on its first location, a little south-east of the Center Mills, till March 1851. Rev. Jotham Sewall preached the first, and Rev. Samuel Wheeler the last sermon in it, as it then stood. A few of the choir, with the same leader, attended on both occasions, although the term between them was almost thirty-six years.

#### 66.—REMOVAL OF MEETING - HOUSE.

March 25, 1851, the taking down of the Meeting-house was commenced. This was effected without accident, except that Abner Pierce was rendered temporarily lame by the swinging of a post which struck him near the hips. The house thus demolished was removed to Keith's Mills, or North Chesterville, where it was rebuilt in a different form, the same year, and dedicated in December. The dimensions at the sills and beams are the same as before, but it contains a less number of pews, for a piazza occupies five feet across one end. The posts are shorter, the roof steeper, the windows fewer and larger, and a belfry is added. Here hangs a bell, weighing about 400 pounds purchased by Rev. Jotham Sewall, a year or two before his death. This is the first and the only bell in the town.

#### 67.—MEETING - HOUSE AT CHESTERVILLE CENTER.

While the first Meeting-House was being rebuilt at Keith's Mills another Meeting-House was erected

and finished at Chesterville Center. This house is somewhat larger than that at North Chesterville and likewise has a belfry. Both houses are union houses, and they are the only Meeting-Houses in town. Some of the inhabitants in the southern part of the town own pews in North Fayette Meeting-House, situated about a half-mile south of the town line. Similarly situated are some in the north-east part of the town who attend meetings in the union Meeting-House at Farmington Falls.

#### 68.—SCHOOL HOUSES.

The first School House in Chesterville was built by subscription several years before the incorporation of the town. It stood on the John Mitchell lot, near the present dwelling of David M. Hamilton, but was never fully finished. It was used for schools and religious meetings a number of years. The earliest school in the settlement was here taught by a mistress, Miss Philena Whitaker, commencing early in the season of 1797. She taught here two summers, giving general satisfaction. Soon after closing the last school of the two, in August 1798, she was married to Rev. Jonathan Ward of New Miford, now Alna, by Rev. Mr. Gillet of Hallowell, in a public meeting at the house of Jotham Sewall. This is believed to have been the first marriage in the place, and that only one, while an inhabitant of the town, was married at an earlier date. William Whittier of Farmington was married to Agnes, daughter of John Butterfield, sen., at Mr. Butterfield's house in

the north-east part of the town, some three and a half or four years before. Another School House was built by subscription, near Mr. Bragdon's, a few years before the plantation became a town, which was used a short time and then sold. The first school in that vicinity was taught by a Miss Smith, before the School-house was put up, in Mr. Bragdon's barn. She was afterwards married to Josiah Norcross, sen., of Farmington.

The first school that was taught in the first school-house after the town was incorporated was taught by a Miss Robinson. The house was used for schools and meetings till another schoolhouse was built. It was at length sold to Wm. Stickney for a dwelling house.

#### 69.—SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

For several years after the town was organized it was divided into four school districts. A school-house for District No. 1 was built near Jotham Sewall's south line, which was used for schools and meetings a number of years. About 1816 it was removed, on a division of the district, and stood several years where the brick one at the Center Mills now stands. The brick schoolhouse was erected in 1837. This district was originally large in territory, embracing all the central and northerly part of the town, excepting the neighborhood in the north-east part.

District No. 2, at first embraced the southern part of the town east of the Ridge, and one or two fami-



lies west of it. For this a schoolhouse was built at the road angle south-east of the residence of Moses French. When this became old and out of repair the district was divided, and two schoolhouses were erected, one on each leading road.

What was once called Russellborough, in the south-west corner of the town, formed District No. 3. The inhabitants of this district, not being numerous, got along without a schoolhouse many years, but at length one was erected. This is believed to be the only school district in the town remaining unaltered from its formation to the present time. It is too small to divide, and has no neighbors so situated as to ask annexation.

District No. 4 was constituted from the northeast part of the town. Its schoolhouse stood near the residence of Peter Whittier for several years. This territory now embraces three districts, each having a schoolhouse.

As before remarked District No. 1 was originally large. By divisions made at different times it made eight districts about 1853. One of these eight never belonged to No. 1, except as wild land. It was settled after some of the divisions were made. Just previous to 1854 the town contained fifteen districts. That year quite an overturn was made and several districts were annihilated by annexing them to others. This work was mostly confined to the territory formerly included in District No. 1. All the fifteen districts excepting two had schoolhouses, several of which were thrown out of use and subsequently sold

or taken down. This reduced the number of districts to eleven.

#### 70.—VILLAGES.—CENTER MILLS.

The largest village in Chesterville is at the Center Mills. Within a few years past, it has contained a tavern, two or three stores, two blacksmith's shops, a Post Office, a harness maker, a wheelwright, pail, match, organ-pipe, and starch factories, and some other establishments.

#### 71.—OTHER VILLAGES.

The village second in size is at Keith's Mills. It has a Post Office, tavern, store, two smith's shops, with several other shops and mills. The village on the Chesterville side of Farmington Falls contains one store, three mills and machine-shops, one smith, and a few other establishments.

#### 72.—ROADS.

The first road through Chesterville was cut and cleared in 1780. From the Sandy River settlements, (afterwards Farmington,) it passed near Keith's Mills, over Locke's Hill, by the Center Mills, along on nature's turnpike—The Ridge—to a point near the present residence of Seth Norcross, then turned south-easterly by the residences of Mr. Norcross and Moses French, just beyond which it entered what was then called "The Five Mile Woods," (there being no settlers there for that distance for some time

after the settlements were made farther north,)—and thence to the Stone Mills, then called Taylor's Mills. On the second hill on this side of Taylor's the road was at first cleared and used east of the present location, and nearly over the top of the hill, which is an elevated point. On the southerly cant of this hill, a little below the summit, was a spot of very thick evergreen timber, through which the road passed, and which bore the name of "The Dark Entry."

In December 1790 a road was cleared which left the first north of McGurdy's Pond, and passed over the Bachelder Hill, and joined the other about half a mile south of the residence of Elisha Perry. On one of these roads the mail was carried from Hallowell to Farmington, on horseback, for years. It was also the main road used for marketing produce and transporting goods to the Sandy River region. A branch from the first road near the residence of Isaac Eaton, and another following the Ridge almost to its end, as well as one from the first, south-easterly of the residence of Moses French, — all leading to Fayette through different neighborhoods, were opened at a later date.

A continuation of the river road, on the west side of the river in Farmington, by the settlements of Mr. Maddocks and others, in the north-east part of the town, led to Pilsbury's Corner in New Sharon; from whence it led one way to Vienna and the other to New Sharon and Mercer.

### 73.—THE CO-OS ROAD.

Another road leaving the first at Jotham Sewall's

the bed of the river. Quite a number of bridges at the Falls have been swept away by freshets.

Another bridge across the Wilson Stream costs the town no small sum. It is the first bridge above the mouth of the stream, and is known as Whittier's Bridge. Chesterville has to maintain more than one half of this, and the ground being lower on the south-east side of the stream, it sometimes happens,—as after the freshet of Oct. 1855,—that Chesterville is obliged to rebuild when Farmington is not.

Another bridge spans the Wilson Stream at Keith's Mills. This place has been left bridgeless after many a freshet. Sometimes it has been only partially swept off; and once in a while part of the lumber used in its construction has been saved by efforts made below. In consequence of a rain on the 6th of April 1857, a severe and destructive freshet occurred. The water did not rise so high as at many other times, but the damage was chiefly done by the ice which had become thicker than usual during the previous winter. Neither had there been, up to the time of the rain, much weather tending to weaken it. The banks of the stream too, above the place, were more destitute of trees and bushes to hold back the ice, than they had formerly been. As a consequence the ice came down in large cakes and with amazing force. During the night of the 6th the little which lay within some twenty rods above the bridge, had partially demolished one of its wooden piers, and a jamb of ice had formed just above the opening thus made. Hopes were enter-

tained that this jamb would hold on till the water subsided, but these were vain hopes. About noon of the 7th, that, with other ice from above had finished the broken pier, smashed up the other, and set most of the planks and stringers afloat. The stone pier in the middle of the stream, as well as the stone abutment on the north side, were sadly disfigured; many stones being thrown into the stream. Some of the timber was recovered, being stopped by a jamb of ice which rested a few hours below the mills. A shop standing near the bridge and partly over the stream was seriously damaged. Mr. Lovejoy, the owner, sustained considerable loss, as the shop had to be taken down and rebuilt. A new bridge in place of the one carried away was not made passable till the following September. This is, apparently the best bridge ever erected at this place. The stone pier and abutments were built over or repaired, rendering the bridge higher than any of the preceding bridges had been. On the whole it has been very expensive maintaining a bridge here.

Across the Little Norridgewock we have bridges of greater or less magnitude. Most of these are rarely destroyed by floods. One or two nearest the mouth of the stream are somewhat exposed. In the freshet of Oct. 1855 the lowest of these took a short trip "up stream." This not unfrequently happens to bridges across McGurdy's stream, not far from its mouth, also across some flat brooks. The Sandy River and Wilson's Stream rise so much more rapidly than their lower tributaries that the current for a

while sets with no small force in a direction opposite to its usual course. In later years some of these bridges have been loaded with stones, so that they do not float even when the water covers them several feet. There are four bridges across McGurdy's Stream, the two lower ones in exposed situations.— The water of this stream is much warmer than the water of other streams in the vicinity, which is supposed by some to produce damage to bridges by hastening the rotting of the wood-work.

#### 75. — RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

The earliest efforts to form a church within the limits of the present town of Chesterville were made in 1789. These resulted, after some delay, in organizing a Congregational Church of nine members, five of whom resided in Hallowell, (which then contained Augusta,) and four in Chester Plantation and vicinity, Feb 25, 1790. It was called the church in Chester Plantation, as there existed another in Hallowell, or what is now Augusta. A few years after the name of Hallowell Church was assumed. Later still it was joined with the old church, and after more than a year separated again from it. The Hallowell and Chester members, others having joined them, remained together till August 1796, about a year after Rev. E. Gillet was ordained pastor of the church, when they became two distinct organizations. The part embracing Chesterville took the name of a Congregational Church of Christ in Chester and Farmington. This was the first Congregational

Church and the only one in this region for a number of years. Individuals in several of the adjoining townships became connected with it, and of these, with others, ultimately, other churches in New Sharon, Farmington, Strong, and Wilton were formed. Eight of the members of this church have become ministers. This church is now considerably smaller as to numbers than it has been in some past periods of its existence. The next church organized is supposed to have been the Freewill Baptist Church in the north-east part of the town, mentioned in Judge Parker's History of Farmington. Another Freewill Baptist Church was organized in the central part of the town in the spring of 1819. This church has been enlarged by additions at various times. Two or three of its members have become preachers. A year or two later a small Calvinist Baptist Church was organized. Years before this individuals in Chesterville had joined a church in Fayette of this denomination and now united with the church in Chesterville. It prospered for several years, when it became divided on matters of discipline, and was ultimately dissolved. Some of its members joined the Freewill Baptists, some left the town, and a few have died. One belongs to a church of the same name in Hallowell. There has been for years a number of Methodists in town, though somewhat scattered.—More of these, perhaps, live in the south part of the town than in other sections, who are connected with the society worshipping in the meeting-house in North Fayette. A society of the Christian order probably

time several individuals have traded at Keith's Mills, each trading for awhile, closing up business and being succeeded by another. Sometimes there has been no merchant in the village, and once or twice there have been two at the same time.

The earliest store at the Center Village was opened by Samuel Melvin, jr., about the year 1817. He continued the business some four or five years, when he sold to Foss & Moore. They remained only two or three years when they sold and the business was carried on by others. Quite a number of merchants have traded in this village, some for a longer, and others for a shorter time. A few times the place has contained two stores at once.

The first store in the south part of the town was kept by William Wyman in a part of his father's house, where F. Carrier now lives. He continued the business about a year and then quit. It is not known that any other store has been kept in that part of the town, except recently in Abiel Mosher's house, west of the Ridge. As mentioned before, there is one store in the north-east part of the town, and has been for years. [That of the late William Whittier, Esq., which was closed after his decease.]

#### 78. — LAWYER.

About 1843 William Tripp opened an office at Keith's Mills. He made but a short stay there, and removed to Wilton. It is not known that any other lawyer ever opened an office in town.



## 79. — TOBACCONIST.

William Stickney, formerly a resident in Hallowell, settled on the lot between those of William Bradbury and John Mitchell, about the year 1808. By occupation he was a tobacconist. He manufactured figs from the leaf, which he sold in considerable quantities. After a few years he dropped the pursuit and turned his whole attention to farming.

## 80. — BLACKSMITHS.

Alexander Allen, it is believed, was the first blacksmith at the Center Mills. After a few years, he left and was succeeded by Elisha Bennet, who removed to the place from New Bedford Mass., in 1806. Mr. Bennet worked at the Mills about a year, when he bought a part of the Thomas Davenport lot, put up buildings and carried on the business several years. He made steelyards, screw augers, chisels, &c. After about eleven and a half years his health failed. He and his two sons manufactured the first, and perhaps the only steelyards and screw augers made in the town. He died in 1819. Nathaniel Staples was the first blacksmith at Keith's Mills.— Within forty years several individuals have carried on blacksmithing at Keith's Mills and at the Center Village, and but few times are called to mind when a journey to some other town was necessary to obtain iron smith's work.

## 81. — CARRIAGES.

About six or seven years after the close of the

last century, or possibly a little later, the chaise began to be introduced into the town. In 1808 few double horse wagons existed in this region. Much of the transportation of goods, to this town at least, was done in horse-carts in the summer season. At this period and earlier, strong ox-wagons traversed the town in moving goods from Hallowell to Farmington. The first single horse wagon in this town was built and used by Joseph French, about 1809, or 1810. A year or two later Dummer Sewall, jr., had a similar one. These were plain farm wagons, without springs of any kind. Not long after this single riding wagons began to be used. Most of them were destitute of springs under the body, and were much heavier and less convenient than those introduced at a later date.

## 82. — MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

The first musical instrument owned and used in Chesterville was a bass-viol brought by Jotham Sewall when he removed his family if not before. Several of the kind have been made by Jacob Ames, and perhaps by others at a later day, as well as violins and tenor viols. The first flute owned in the town was Joseph Bradbury's, about the year 1800. The first, and so far as the writer knows, the only, piano-forte ever in the town, was in the family of Jacob Safford, about 1840, or perhaps earlier. At a later date a few melodeons were owned and used in Chesterville. These were soon superseded by reed organs made in New Sharon. In a few cases these

have been, and still are used advantageously to help church music. About 1855 Lathrop C. Tilton commenced business at the Center Village. His employment has been preparing lumber and making pipes for wind organs, which he sends to Boston. Since commencing his business here he has built an instrument of this kind, which is not only the first in the town, but the earliest manufactured here, and probably in the county. It was finished in 1857, and placed in the Center Village Meeting-house for the sum of two hundred dollars. The instrument is, eight feet in height, three feet in width, and six feet long. Its compass is four and a half octaves. It has six stops named as follows; viz., Principal, Diapason Bass, Open Diapason Treble, Melodia Treble, Dulciana, and Flute. Its longest pipe is four feet three inches,—four by five inches. It has sufficient power to fill the house well. It appears to be correctly tuned, making excellent and pleasant music.

### 83. — LIBRARIES.

There is but little doubt that a library existed in Chesterville among its early settlers, perhaps as early as 1793. No records of it have been found, and all that is known about it is found in the private Journal of Jotham Sewall. He mentions meeting the "Book Society," and that the books had arrived.—How long it existed, and how many volumes it contained is unknown. A Library was started at the Center Village not far from 1820. It lived but a short time. The books were divided among the share-

holders. Another library was more successfully started in the south part of the town about the time of the commencement of that at the Center. It is said still to exist, while another organization of a similar character—some individuals owning shares in both—has been in operation there a few years.

In 1832 a Library was organized at Keith's Mills which has kept along quite regularly these twenty-six years. It has purchased more than 300 volumes, and most of them—if we may judge from their worn condition—have been well read. It has given much information to its shareholders—thirty or more in number—and has excited a thirst for more. One person has been clerk of the association ever since its start, and librarian twelve years.

#### 84. — REPRESENTATIVES.

Chesterville, being a small town, never elected a representative while under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts. An approximation to this privilege was first enjoyed under the act of separation which allowed one delegate each, even from small towns, to meet in a Constitutional Convention. To this Convention the town sent Ward Locke, in 1819, and raised a Committee to furnish him with written instructions, which he accordingly received. Mr. Locke was also the first representative of Chesterville under the Constitution of Maine. Pursuant to this constitution and the classification laws enacted by its authority, the town has been allowed representation every two or

three years. A list of those chosen to represent the town is as follows :

1821	Ward Locke	1840	Cyrus Pierce
1824	David Morrill	1844	Cyrus Pierce
1827	David Morrill	1847	John Baker
1830	Dearborn French	1851	Oliver Sewall
1833	Jotham Bradbury	1852	Oliver Sewall
1835	Seth Norcross	1855	Elias H. Brown
1837	Dearborn French	1857	David H. Chandler

In 1852 Reuben Lowell was chosen one of the electors of president and vice president of the United States, for this State. Up to the commencement of 1858, no State Senator or Counsellor has been selected from Chesterville.

#### 85. — WILD ANIMALS.

As has been before suggested moose were plenty in the vicinity in the days of the early settlers.— Bears were still more abundant, and in spring and autumn rather troublesome, often killing sheep, cattle, and hogs. William Bradbury lost three young cattle by them at one time. In summer the bears fed much upon blueberries, and in some instances several of them were seen feeding together on the Plains. Tradition as well as written sketches preserve several anecdotes relative to them. On one occasion when Mr. Linscott was in quest of his cattle, he stopped to pick and eat some strawberries, moving about on his hands and knees. He soon saw a bear at a distance, apparently in “a state of wonderment,” having just espied Mr. Linscott, and seeming to be trying to make out what sort of an animal he was. He would

come a little nearer, rear on his hind legs, and look intently at the object before him. Mr. L. kept on picking berries, crawling nearer and nearer to the bear. When he found himself within a rod or two of the bear, and had got hold of a pitch-knot, he suddenly raised himself to an upright position, taking off his hat with one hand, and throwing the knot at his black associate with the other, he spread out his arms, gesticulated as frightfully as possible, and shouted at the top of his voice. His sable friend seemed thunderstruck and motionless for a moment, then recovering from his consternation he made the best possible use of his locomotive powers in a speedy flight.

At another time Mr. Linscott found his cattle huddled together, the smaller ones in the middle, and a bear moving around, seeking to make fast to a victim. When the bear in his earnestness would venture up near the cattle, one or two of the larger animals would run at him and drive him back a little way. Soon he would return again, and again have to retreat before the threatening horns of an ox or two. Mr. Linscott was somewhat amused with their evolutions and watched them awhile.— Whether he shot bruin or tried his luck in giving him a fright, tradition saith not.

Opposite the two story dwelling-house in which Dummer Sewall lived many years, lay a large pine, some three or four feet in diameter, probably cut for a fence on the east side of the road. Beyond this he had a hog-yard. Bruin called there once, somewhat hungry no doubt, to borrow a little live pork. Mr.

Sewall, not choosing to accommodate him, rested his old war musket over the pine log, and put a quietus to any future attempts of the sort. So the bear furnished instead of filching pork.

Stephen Titcomb, Esq., once called to pass the night at Dummer Sewalls, on a journey to Topsham. In the course of the evening Mr. Sewall asked Mr. Titcomb if he would like some bear steak for breakfast? "I should," said Mr. Titcomb; "Have you any?" The reply was—"No. But I think we can get some in the morning." When morning came they were up betimes, and Mr. Sewall took his gun, and said to Mr. Titcomb, "Yoke my oxen in the yard, there, take the drag and drive over towards a small pond near the Plains," pointing out what direction to go; "and," said he, "when you hear the report of the gun, drive towards it." Both did as indicated. Mr. Sewall came in sight of several bears, which were eating berries, selected his victim, fired, and ran up and bled the animal. The team was not far behind; so they loaded their booty, hauled it home, and had fresh meat for breakfast.

Early in the morning of June 8, 1794, Jotham Sewall and a few of his neighbors were alarmed by the bellowing of some creature in distress. They hastened towards the place from which the sound came, and found a small ox wounded and disabled by a bear, on the east side of the Little Norridge-wock, easterly from his residence. As they drew near the bear moved off. They looked up the owner, John Butterfield, who concluded it best to kill and skin the ox, which was accordingly done. A trap

was set, bated by the carcass, and in a few days after bruin was found in the trap. He was soon put where he would "stay put," and gore no more oxen. At the early period of the first settlement of Chesterville the country abounded in game. Of the animals valued for their fur, beavers and otters were not unfrequently trapped. Foxes, minks, and muskrats were also sought for their fur. These were caught in great numbers at certain seasons of the year, by those who made it their business.

#### 86. — BEAVER DAMS.

About the year 1821, John Morrison and Henry Titcomb, in straightening the Beaver Dam Brook, a tributary of Wilson's Stream, to facilitate the running of logs, cut through a beaver dam, across where the brook undoubtedly once ran. This was about fifty rods southerly of the dwelling-house of the late Josiah Norcross, Jr. They found the teeth-marks on the ends of limbs and sticks. Apparently these industrious and sagacious animals had felled a pine tree, some eighteen inches in diameter, across the brook, and stuck down and wove together limbs and sticks, filling in earth above, thus forming a dam about five rods long, and from two to six or seven feet in height, so firm that it was not easily removed. Indeed, it had to all appearance turned the natural course of the brook around the west end of the dam. This brook is the outlet of Locke's Pond. Its bed lays so low that in a quick rise of Wilson's Stream the water rushes back into the pond, with quite a



current. There is supposed to have been a beaver dam, anciently, across the Little Norridgewock, about a hundred rods above Park's Mills. When passing up and down the stream in a canoe, in a bright summer day, a ridge or embankment may be seen under water, extending across the stream, with a breakage a few feet wide, in or near the middle of the channel.

### 87. — FISH.

Fish were plenty when Chesterville began to be settled. Alewives were very abundant. Mrs. Wheeler says that her father, Mr. Linscott, had a barrel of them at one time. When a dam had been built at the Center Mills it checked their course up-stream, so that the water below would be almost black with them. When going to the sea they were seen in great numbers passing down the wasteway. As soon as they found themselves going through it, in quick water, they would turn head to the current, and thus back down, no doubt to save the shock below, or possibly to avoid striking anything below with the head. Alewives were so plenty in Wilson's Stream that Mrs. Samuel Sewall caught enough one morning, with only her hands, to breakfast her family. Trout and some other varieties of fish were caught and afforded an important help to the pioneer settlers. Occasionally they were fortunate enough to enjoy the luxury of a salmon.

It was a problem of exceeding difficulty to solve, that pickerel were not formerly found in any of the

tributaries of the Kennebec in this region, while they were somewhat plenty in those of the Androscoggin. It was currently reported and believed that Col. Charles Morse of Wilton, about thirty years ago, brought seven of these fish in a tub of water from some tributary of the Androscoggin and put them into Wilson's Pond, in Wilton. From this or some other cause, however, pickerel have been quite plenty in the Kennebec waters of this vicinity for several years.

#### 88.—SERPENTS.—POWER OF FASCINATION.

This article is not introduced to exhibit a learned description of the several species of this legless reptile. Were the writer competent for such a task,—which he is not,—the labor would be by no means inviting; nor would it furnish instruction or entertainment to such as might undertake its perusal.—The object is, rather, to save from oblivion a few incidents the accounts of which are deemed authentic, and which show the fascinating power of common snakes. It was not until the writer heard one of these incidents, in June 1856, that he had the faintest idea—the smallest thought—that this wonderful power was possessed by such serpents as are common in this region, or even by one of them. But to the anecdotes:—

Jason Sewall, the third son of Samuel Sewall, who began the first settlement near Keith's Mills, and who lived where J. B. Morrison, Esq., now resides several years, relates, that when he was about

seven years old, as he was returning from "putting the cows to pasture," with a stick in his hand, coming near the end of a log which extended angling, away from the road, not far from the present dwelling of R. M. Morrison, in Farmington, he heard an uncommon sound, and stopped near the end of the log to listen. The first object that caught his eye was a small bird, perhaps a sparrow, in a fluttering, agitated state, on a bush, beside the log, now and then uttering a singular cry. It soon left the bush for another on the other side of the log, alighting a little lower than where he first saw it. It was about this time that his eye fell upon a serpent of the common sort, about two feet long, lying on the log, with its head somewhat elevated, and at intervals making a slight noise. The bird continued in an agitated state, occasionally flying from one bush to another across the log, every time coming nearer to the serpent. The serpent appeared to be watching the movements of the bird, turning its head so as to look directly towards it. When the bird had changed its position several times, and had alighted much nearer the serpent than when first seen, it flew in a direct line into the open mouth of his snakeship. Our friend who had been hearing and seeing now thought it time to act. So bringing his stick with a quick, smart motion across the snake he broke the spell and liberated the bird, which flew off, apparently rejoicing to regain its liberty. Feeling a measure of that enmity put between the seed of the woman and that of the serpent, he repeated his blows till the charmer, though charming never so wisely, was slain.

In June 1855, Arthur, son of Reuben Lowell of Chesterville, saw a serpent of a species common in the vicinity, about eighteen inches long, coiled up on the upper side of the stump of a pine tree, which had been turned up by the roots. Some five or six inches of the serpent's head, neck, &c., being elevated. He was making a hissing sound, but continued motionless, with open mouth. Some four feet above him was a small bird, flying around in a circle about three or four feet in diameter, uttering a chirping, but uncommon sound. In its spiral flight it came still nearer and nearer to the snake, evidently verging into the open mouth. When within about four inches of that point Arthur deemed it proper to interfere. He raised the axe he had in his hand, and cut the snake in two, which broke the spell, for the bird instantly flew away.

The following tends towards the conclusion that this power is exerted over other animate creatures as well as birds. But one would not naturally imagine that it could subject one so spry as a frog to its control. About the year 1850 Otis H. Sewall, then of Chesterville, as he was passing through a small field near his house, noticed a frog making short jumps, in a zigzag course, gaining slowly towards a striped snake, some twenty inches long, with the head somewhat raised, laying on the ground, a little further on. When the frog in one of its jumps had landed about eight inches from the snake, the latter sprang and caught it by the hind leg. The frog cried out something like a cat, and struggled for "dear life," but there he was. Mr. S. struck the serpent which imme-

diately opened its jaws. The frog now liberated leaped off, not as he came up, but to the tune of four or five feet at a leap, increasing the distance between him and his captor with all possible speed. As the writer had these incidents from credible witnesses he cannot doubt their general correctness.

#### 89. — TEMPERANCE.

The first efforts to form a society in Chesterville for the promotion of the cause of Temperance were made at a meeting of a few friends of temperance movements held at the School-house in District No. Eight, not far from the residence of Jacob Ames.— The meeting was held in April, 1828. From the records it appears that some previous labor had been bestowed in preparing a Constitution for a society, as most, perhaps all, present signed one on the spot. The earliest intimation of a desire to form a Society here within the recollection of the writer, was dropped by Jeremiah Eaton at a town meeting, probably in the March previous to the above date. It is no doubt true that there were many temperate people in the town before this, and perhaps a few total abstainers; still, without an abuse of language, it might have been averred that some were drunkards. But the evil intended to be cured at the above date was not so much drunkenness as the habit of taking a dram on almost any occasion. Its mission, as we look back upon it, seemed to be to break up the customary use of ardent spirits as a beverage, which was old and time honored.

At the meeting before mentioned it was agreed to have another on the second Saturday in the following June, to organize a Society. This was accordingly held, when Tobias Moore was chosen Chairman, and Dr. James Fogg, Secretary. As the Doctor was absent William Chaney was chosen Secretary, pro tem. This meeting was adjourned to the fourth of July following, at which time Dr. Fogg declined the secretaryship and John Chaney, Jr., was chosen to that office. He was continued in the office during about two years, during which time the society met some four or five times. Printed addresses were read at some of these meetings, and alterations to the Constitution proposed, discussed and adopted.

This society kept up its organization till the beginning of 1836, the last meeting being in March. Sometimes the meetings were held quarterly, and sometimes monthly. A list of the members found on record, (which probably included only those received up to July 1833,) contained 199 names, 78 of whom are males, the others females. Afterwards more than 100 became members. Forty-six were excluded. In 1834 quite a number of members joined, and among others one whole family of ten persons,—Jotham Bradbury's,—at one time.—The society had addresses or discourses from different individuals, as follows—

June 28, 1836, by Rev. Jotham Sewall, Jr.,

July 9, 1831, by Dr. J. Caldwell of Farmington,

July 5, 1832, by Wm. Emmons, Esq., of Augusta.

Feb. 26, 1833, by Mr. Daniel Sewall,

Sept. 4, 1833, by Rev. Jotham Sewall, Jr.,

Dec. 3, 1833, by Mr. Elisha M. Tobie.

Feb. 18, 1834, by Mr. E. M. Tobie, followed by

Rev. S. Curtis and Col. C. Morse, at Bean S. H.

July 4, 1834, by Rev. S. Curtis.

July 4, 1835, by Mr. Daniel Sewall.

At the last meeting but one, found on record, held March 15, 1836, the following question, introduced at a previous meeting, was discussed; viz:—  
“Whether respectable temperance men, refusing to unite with temperance societies, or notorious drunkards are doing most injury to the cause of Temperance?” It was discussed by H. Mayhew, Josiah Chaney, Elder Clark and others. Thanks were voted to Elder Clark for his able remarks on the question. It was also voted unanimously, that the respectable temperance man who drinks moderately, is doing greater injury to the cause of Temperance than the open drunkard.

Not long after the last date given above, the Washingtonians surprized the country. threw the old temperance people into the back ground. and took the work into their own hands. The Washingtonians aimed at reclaiming the sot. and many of them no doubt thought it was a new idea in the world. But the records referred to above show it to have been an object with temperance men years before. It is true, however. that this was considered a rather uphill business formerly; still it is believed that one such, if no more, was reformed through the efforts of the old organization. The writer lacks information as to the amount of good done in this town by the Washingtonians. Several temperance societies, in various forms, have been started and flourished for a

time, since the above mentioned efforts. All have doubtless, done more or less good to the cause.

#### 90.— MASTS AND SPARS.

It is supposed that the first masts cut in Chesterville were prepared and hauled from the farms of Moses and Joseph French, about the year 1825. This was done by men engaged in building vessels at or near Hallowell. Within six or seven years after this several sets of masts were obtained in a similar manner, as they were needed in shipyards. In the winter of 1832 the business of furnishing masts was undertaken by inhabitants of the town. Col. Samuel French, Jr., (who by the way was the first, if not the only militia field officer taken from this town.) cut and hauled to Hallowell from his farm, 22 masts. It was while loading the first of these for Hallowell, Jan. 3, 1832, that it came down from the sled, crushing the legs of his brother, Benj. S. French, on the frozen ground, with but little snow. It literally ground the bones of the right leg in many pieces, and dislocated the ankle, and broke one bone of the left leg twice. By the skill of Drs. Baldwin and Sanborn he became able to stand erect without any support but these legs, in four weeks and three days after the injury. His legs were weak for a long time, as it was about a year before he could trust them in all places. In 1833 Col. French cut and hauled 20 more masts. Since 1825 there have been cut in the south part of the town, on different farms, by different persons, about 400 masts, besides many spars and much other ship timber, including red oak plank. A few have been marketed from other parts of the town.

Masts standing, such as were sold in 1825 for \$3, are sold latterly for \$40. Transporting them to Hallowell now costs about double the amount of ex-



































